

# Tots Used in Sex Films, Prosecutors Say

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cameras rolled and teachers watched as preschool children were sexually molested by adult strangers in a game called "Naked Movie Star," say prosecutors seeking to have three of seven defendants held without bail.

"It appears that the primary purpose of the McMartin Preschool was to solicit young children for pornographic purposes," Deputy District Attorney Eleanor Barrett said Tuesday.

"It is my belief that these photographs and movies were taken for commercial purposes," Ms. Barrett said.

She said 125 children who attended the Virginia McMartin Preschool between 1973 and 1983 may have been involved. No photographs or films have been recovered, authorities said. Seven school staff members have been charged with 115 felony counts involving 18 children who testified before a county grand jury.

One unidentified parent was quoted in today's *Los Angeles Times* as saying that his 4-year-old daughter told investigators that she and two other children were driven to a horse stable where sex acts were filmed.

"Ropes were placed around her waist and her hands were tied behind her back," the father said.

Ms. Barrett said that because the children were touched by strangers not connected with the school, they may have been "victims of child prostitution."

Prosecutors allege children were kept silent by threats to themselves and their parents.

Brad Sales, an assistant to therapist Kee McFarlane who interviewed the children, was quoted in court documents as saying that rabbits, turtles, dogs and cats were mutilated, and birds and fish were tortured in front of the children.

The youngsters allegedly were told they and their parents would be similarly treated if they revealed the molestations, he said.

Ms. Barrett's findings, released Tuesday, were contained in the district attorney's response filed in Los Angeles Superior Court to defense motions to reduce the defendants' bail.

"We want the court to set no bail for three of the seven defendants because of the substantial likelihood that great bodily harm to some children will result if the defendants are released," District Attorney Robert H. Philibosian said in

a statement.

The no-bail motion names Raymond Buckey, 25, who is charged with 75 counts — the bulk of the charges; his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, 57, who is charged with 15 counts; and teacher Betty Rador, 64, 12 counts.

The other four defendants are free on bail. They are: Peggy Ann Buckey, 28, charged with one count; Babette Spittler, 36, six counts; Mary Ann Jackson, 56, five

counts; and Virginia McMartin, the 76-year-old grandmother who founded the school, who is charged with a single count.

All seven were arrested March 22. Indictments allege children were raped, sodomized, forced to submit to oral copulation or fondling.

Mrs. McMartin, who was cited for her "outstanding community service" in 1977, has called the allegations a "bunch of lies" and relatives of some of the other defendants have rallied to support the school, which closed in January because so many parents pulled their students out.

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## The Weather

Windy, snow mixed with rain today; flurries likely to-night. Cloudy, chance of flurries Friday. Highs, 35-40°; low tonight, near 30°. Details on Page 2.

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